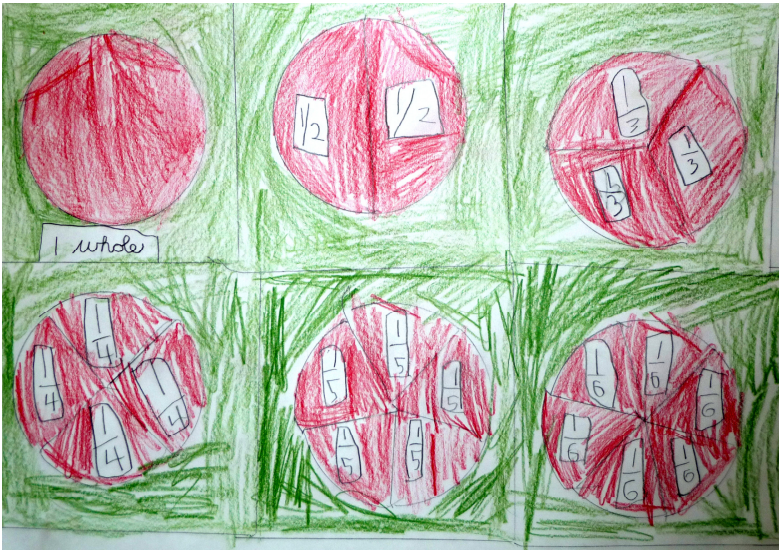




Montessori Matters



Learning Math is as Easy as Child's Play! (left) A first study of fractions during the kindergarten year. (right) A study of quadrilaterals.

Montessori in the News

In a new book, the founders of Google credit their success to their Montessori education. See page two.

Montessori Mondays

Montessori Monday is a monthly morning gathering for our families and friends to participate in interactive sessions.

Come join us on Monday, April 11th at 8:45 am for *Learning Math: It's as Easy as Child's Play* in the new media center. Bring a cup of coffee! The Montessori Monday will last about 30 minutes but feel free to stay and visit with other parents. Also, right after the gathering we will have our monthly PTSA meeting to discuss exciting happenings at RMS.

Book Fair

Monday—Friday, April 11—15.

Rochester Montessori School

Because how children learn influences who they will become

Community 225

By Paul Epstein, Ph.D.

Nearly a year ago we announced our Community 225 initiative to expand our programs and facilities. I am excited to share with you some of the progress we have now made towards achieving our goals.

Enrollment Community 225 stands for a student enrollment of 225 children, ages 18 months through the 8th grade. We are making great progress with increasing our enrollment without sacrificing our commitment to small class sizes. Due to the high amount of interest in RMS, we anticipate that very soon we will open waiting lists for the Children's House and Elementary classrooms for the next school year.

Faculty In anticipation of increased student enrollment and the opening of the Middle School program, we will welcome two new teachers in the fall - one for E2 and one for the Middle School. We interviewed four teachers for our expanding E2 program and three teachers for the Middle School. We now welcome Laura Shuurman to E2 and Emily Hill Lewis to the Middle School.



The Stamp Game (above, right) is used for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division exercises. The Stamps represent units, tens, hundreds, and thousands. Children understand these abstract ideas after many previous experiences with sorting and sequencing activities and with materials that more concretely represent place value quantities (above, left).

Laura Shuurman is a certified Montessori E2 teacher and a certified public school teacher, grades K-6. Laura has taught in an E2 program since 2006 at the Sedona Charter School in Arizona. Laura attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and she enjoyed her time student teaching in Antwerp, Belgium at the Antwerp International School where she work with children from many diverse backgrounds. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in reading. She expects to complete her Master's degree in education this summer.

One of Laura's favorite aspects of Montessori Philosophy is Peace Education. The Upper Elementary classroom focuses on peace by integrating problem-solving into each day, emphasizing how each child is a peace maker. In her spare time she enjoys camping, listening to live music, visiting friends and family in Minnesota, and traveling.

Laura will work with Christine Bredemus as E2 co-teachers. It happens that Laura and Christine first met when they took their Montessori teacher studies in the same program. Their background strengths - Christine in Math and Laura in Reading/Writing - are very complimentary.

Emily Hill Lewis began her Montessori career when, as a child, she attended Montessori Children's House in

Madison, Wisconsin! Her professional work has included work in Montessori education at the elementary and children's house levels and as a science educator in the public schools arena. Emily is a certified Montessori early childhood teacher and is completing Minnesota state requirements for public school certification.

Emily is enamored with science and history, and we look forward to her work not only with Middle School but with E2 collaborations as well. Emily earned a Master's of Science degree in Natural Resources, Environmental Education and Interpretation from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She also completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, and earned a Certificate in Environmental Studies, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When not teaching science, Emily finds time to pursue her life as a classical musician. She currently plays viola with the Saint Paul Civic Symphony.

Facilities An obvious indicator of our Community 225 progress occurred last November when we opened the building addition. It has been home to the E1, E2, music, Spanish, art, and media center. After six months, we are still settling in and still making facility improvements. For example, new furniture has begun to arrive in the E1 and E2 classrooms. Now that spring is here,



completing the play fields setting up the new media center are some of the next priorities.

International Baccalaureate Program We have submitted our application to become a candidate school with the IB Middle Years Program for grades six—eight. Our work on Middle School curriculum development continues; please stop by if you would like to review what has been developed to date. A summary of the program, titled *Plan for the Montessori, I.B. Middle School*, can be found on our website at

<http://rmschool.org/documents/rmsplanformiddleschool1210.pdf>

Community 225 is progressing ahead of schedule, and we are truly grateful for your support and commitment to your children's school. I look forward to sharing additional developments with you, and, as always, I welcome your comments and thoughts.

Montessori in the News

What You Need To Know About Google's Co-Founders

The following article appears on the web at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/04/in-the-plex-google-cofounders_n_844537.html

Understanding what makes Google Google has little to do with algorithms, market capitalization estimates, or the total number of employees, according to Marissa Mayer, the first female engineer at Google and the company's vice president of location and local services.

In the forthcoming book *In the Plex: How Google Thinks, Works, and Shapes Our Lives* by Steven Levy, Mayer explains that it is impossible to comprehend Google without knowing a key tidbit about the upbringing of Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Specifically, that both were "Montessori kids," educated in Montessori schools.

"It's really ingrained in their personalities," Mayer told Levy, according to *In the Plex*. "In Montessori school you go paint because you have something to express or you just want to do it that afternoon, not because the teacher said so. Do something because it makes sense, not because some authority figure told you.

This is really baked into how Larry and Sergey approach problems. They're always asking, 'Why should it be like that?' It's the way their brains were programmed early on."

Mayer recounted an episode during a dinner at St. James's Palace with Prince Philip at which Brin and Page drank a side of fruit juice in one gulp, rather than add it to their soufflé, as their hosts had intended. Mayer later told the duo that the side had been meant as a condiment to the dish--rather than a separate "plate"--but Page and Brin responded by challenging Mayer with a "Who says?"

According to the Montessori.edu website, the Montessori education system "emphasizes learning through all five senses, not just through listening, watching, or reading. Children in early childhood Montessori classes learn at their own, individual pace and according to their own choice of activities from hundreds of possibilities."

